

Wild Gardens of Acadia

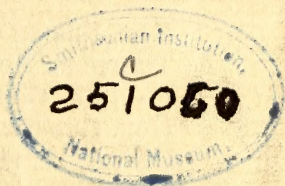
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**SIEUR DE MONTS
NATIONAL MONUMENT
1918**

A GROUP OF LETTERS

Addressed to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives at Washington on the occasion of the first inclusion of this park in the annual park estimates of the Government

Not for Publication



The Sieur de Monts National Monument constitutes the first national park to be established by the Government, war memorials apart, to the east of Colorado or the Hot Springs of Arkansas.

With our eastern mountains represented in extensive national and state forests, this park, which embodies the most splendid scenery on our Atlantic coast, will probably remain the single member of our national park system to the north of Washington and the east of Indiana, an area that contains according to statistics compiled by the Agricultural Department close on to thirty million people and is the most densely occupied in the United States. It will be visited by multitudes of people always, once it has been developed by the Government to receive them, and it is emphatically a park for the people, offering them the beauty and refreshment of the ocean upon a coast every other portion of which is rapidly being taken up in private occupation.

It is a tract also capable of an intensive development, both in a recreational and a wild life sense, that will unite with the wide freedom of the islanded and navigable waters that surround it to extend its area.

With its refreshing, ocean-tempered climate, its walks and climbs and opportunities for invigorating life upon the sea, it is a place moreover peculiarly fitted for restoring the vitality of those whom the strain of work or war may leave exhausted or nervously impaired.

LIST OF WRITERS

HON. FRANKLIN K. LANE, *Secretary of the Interior*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

DAVID B. OGDEN

HON. GEORGE W. WICKERSHAM

REV. A. W. HALSEY, D.D.

REV. WILLIAM T. MANNING, D.D.

FELIX W. WARBURG

T. GILBERT PEARSON, *National Association of
Audubon Societies*

PROFESSOR W. B. SCOTT, *Princeton University*

HON. GEORGE L. INGRAHAM

JACOB H. SCHIFF

RT. REV. WILLIAM LAWRENCE, D.D., *Bishop of
Massachusetts*

HON. THOMAS EWING

LINCOLN CROMWELL

HON. CARL E. MILLIKEN, *Governor of Maine*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON

April 9, 1918.

DEAR MR. SHERLEY:

I write to ask your favorable consideration of the estimate of fifty thousand dollars I have entered among the National Park estimates for the ensuing year for the improvement and protection of the Sieur de Monts National Monument on the coast of Maine.

I decided personally on this estimate after visiting the Monument last summer and making thorough examination during a week's stay into its needs and opportunities as a unit of the National Park system. It is a true park area in the highest sense, totally different from any other that we have and capable of giving untold refreshment to the great town and city populations of our country to the eastward of the Mississippi. It is the only National park — using the word in its descriptive sense — that fronts upon the sea, and it represents at its culminating point one of the oldest and most important recreation areas upon the Continent — the New England coast.

It is a tract of extraordinary variety and interest, a bold mountain chain compressed within the limits of an island fifteen miles across — though seventy or eighty in its ocean frontage. A dozen or more separate peaks, deeply divided by lakes and gorges and an ocean inlet, make up this chain. The most beautiful woods remaining on that coast — once famous for its timber — lie round the mountain bases.

The lands constituting the Monument have been for over sixty years the object of resort from all the great Eastern cities, from Southern ones extending to New Orleans, and Central ones to St. Louis. Now, over fifty thousand people visit the Monument each summer, making it third among the National Park areas in the number of its visitors. Placed as it is in relation to the great Eastern population centers, and equally accessible by boat and motor as by train, this number may readily be doubled within a few years' time by right development.

The Monument was made possible by the gift of citizens, and it has been generously added to since its creation.

The creation of this Monument was not the result of chance but of carefully thought-out intention; the gift that made it possible simply provided opportunity for carrying that intention out. No better way of extending into the crowded eastern regions of the country the immediate benefits of our National Park system could have been devised than that presented by the Monument, which for the first time gave this system access to navigable waters on a harbored coast and gave the East a National Park area characteristic of its greatest recreational feature.

Cordially yours
(Signed) FRANKLIN K. LANE

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

April 10, 1918.

MY DEAR MR. SHERLEY:

As a man who has been deeply interested for many years in the growth and development of our national park system, I respectfully urge on your Committee favorable action on Secretary Lane's request for adequate appropriation for the Sieur de Monts National Monument on the coast of Maine. It is our one eastern national park and gives for the first time to the crowded eastern portion of the country the opportunity to share directly and immediately in the benefits of our national park system. Its striking ocean frontage makes it unlike every other park.

I have watched with keen interest the work that has led to the creation of this Park. Under right development it will give a healthy playground to multitudes of hard working men and women who need such a playground. Moreover, it constitutes a wild life sanctuary under national guardianship at a spot where such a sanctuary is greatly needed.

Secretary Lane's request for adequate provision for this park is in accordance with the broad national policy for the conservation and development of our home resources — a policy which every year becomes of increasing consequence.

Faithfully yours

(Signed)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Committee of the House on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

**LAW OFFICES of
DAVID B. OGDEN
54 William Street
New York**

April 3, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

I understand that Secretary Lane has recommended an appropriation of \$50,000 for the improvement and protection of the Sieur de Monts National Monument.

This is a matter which is of very great interest to myself and to countless other persons who are situated more or less as I am. It is now upwards of fifty years since I and my family first went to Mount Desert Island, and I think I can say that in every intervening summer some member of my family has been there. It is there that during the whole of my professional life I have found strength and refreshment more abundantly than I have found it elsewhere either in this country or in Europe. The breezes from the Atlantic mingling with the life-giving breath of the forests of pine and spruce, the matchless grandeur of the distant views, the beauty and picturesqueness of the immediate surroundings, and, above all, the coolness of the atmosphere make a combination which cannot be matched on the Atlantic coast north of Rio de Janeiro. If ever nature indicated a beneficent purpose of affording health and enjoyment to the sons of men, she has done it on Mount Desert Island.

That it should have been set apart as a National Park was, I think, one of the most important peaceful events of our recent national history. It is now protected by law from invasion of every kind, but what still remains to be done is that this legal protection should be made actual. The woods must be conserved, the wild life must be protected, new means of access must be devised and put in execution. Already the statistics show that the number of visitors during the past two years exceeds the number going to any other national park of recreative charac-

ter except the Rocky Mountain Park, and I feel confident that this number, great as it is, will increase with amazing rapidity in the future if steps are taken to enable persons of moderate means, to whom a visit to the far west is an impossibility, to come to Mount Desert Island and spend there without undue expense the leisure time which the summer affords them. Everywhere on the island are to be found sites of exceptional beauty for the erection of small houses, and the cost of living is not excessive. There are thousands of men situated as I am and have been — hard workers whose strength and vitality can only be maintained by breaking away from labour for a short period — to whom this Park is going to prove a measureless blessing.

If the Government proposes to spend any money upon its park system, I think that the Sieur de Monts ought to receive that proportion of the total appropriation which the number of its visitors bears to the aggregate number of visitors to other parks. The remarkable opportunities for increase and greater usefulness it offers under right development seem to entitle it to that.

Very sincerely yours

(Signed)

DAVID B. OGDEN

40 WALL STREET, NEW YORK
April 8, 1918.

HONORABLE SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

I beg to invite your favorable consideration to the estimate of \$50,000 which I understand has been entered among the National Park estimates for the ensuing year for the improvement and protection of the Sieur de Monts National Monument (or National Park) on the coast of Maine. I am very familiar with the property and the considerations which surround the proposal to improve and care for it as a part of the National Park System. Mount Desert Island is unique in many particulars. It is a mountainous isle, surrounded by ocean and bay, and deeply indented by estuaries of the sea. In proportion to its superficial area, it embraces more beauty and presents more opportunities for healthful recreation than any place with which I am familiar in the United States. There is a small fringe of homes of the wealthy which girdles a part of its perimeter. On the other hand, there is a vast expanse of property most admirably adapted for summer homes of people of very moderate means. For that reason, it has been for years a favorite resort of professional and scholastic folk from all over the country, and the people interested in the movement to make it a National Park are looking to the benefit of the large class of brain-workers of small means who may find there a source of reinvigoration and inspiration at small cost. In addition to that, the place has great possibilities as a bird refuge, for the protection of the wild bird life of the eastern country.

There are, of course, great demands upon the national finances in the present exigency, but the preservation of this island has a national importance even in time of war, because it furnishes a singularly appropriate resort for the thousands of our men who may come home from across the water in need of the most favorable influences for the upbuilding of body and mind. For these reasons, I venture to urge your careful and favorable consideration of this proposed appropriation.

Very sincerely yours

(Signed)

GEO. W. WICKERSHAM

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York

Office of Secretary

April 8, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

Permit me to urge upon your favorable attention the recommendation made by Secretary Lane, that an appropriation of \$50,000 be granted by Congress for the improvement and protection of the Sieur de Monts National Monument.

My interest in this project is purely a philanthropic one. Thirty years ago I visited Bar Harbor and was charmed with its wondrous beauty. For the past fifteen years every summer I have spent three or four weeks at Bar Harbor, and I know something of its lure. It grows upon one with the years. The Government never did a better piece of work than when it set apart this masterpiece of nature for a National Park. Each year I have seen increased numbers of what Abraham Lincoln called the "common people" going to the Park to enjoy its beauties. If proper arrangements are made I believe this number will increase rapidly with the years, as the Sieur de Monts National Monument is the only National Park in this section of the country where dwell many millions, large numbers of whom, if the way were open, could be induced to spend a portion of each year in this delightful resort. The appropriation will aid much in making permanent what has already been done. The summer residents at Bar Harbor and those who are interested in this project have shown a spirit of unselfishness, of sacrifice, of high idealism and of good citizenship that I believe has not been excelled by any group of men and women anywhere in the country. They should receive the hearty and cordial coöperation of the Government, for what they are aiming to accomplish is that this Park

may be made available for the people. I am sure that the President, whom I know very well, he being a classmate and warm friend of mine for forty years, and whose idealism and love for the people are too well-known to be questioned, would heartily approve of this appropriation. It means large things for the people in the near future if the interests of this Park are properly conserved.

I trust you will not consider it an intrusion for me to urge upon you the favorable consideration of this recommendation of Secretary Lane.

Sincerely yours

(Signed)

A. W. HALSEY

Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions

1ST PROVISIONAL BATTALION
CAMP UPTON, N.Y.
April 8, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Committee of the House on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

I learn that the question of making an appropriation for the Sieur de Monts National Park is shortly to come before you for consideration. For many years I have spent my summer vacations near to the Sieur de Monts National Park. This park offers a quite unequalled opportunity for rest and recuperation to the busy, overworked men and women in the eastern part of our country. In my judgment the expenditure required to develop it would be many times over repaid by the practical and permanent benefits which it would confer.

This park possesses extraordinary natural attractions and possibilities, it can be developed without undue expenditure, and it is far nearer at hand than any other national park to the greatest number of those who most need such provision.

With respect, I remain, Sir,

Yours very truly
(Signed) WILLIAM T. MANNING
Volunteer Chaplain 1st Provisional Battalion

NEW YORK, *April 12, 1918.*

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

I understand that Secretary Lane of the Department of the Interior has recommended that an appropriation of \$50,000 be made this year for the development and protection of the Sieur de Monts National Monument at Mt. Desert Island, and as one who is delighted that the Government in its wisdom has made a reservation out of that wonderful and beautiful spot for the benefit of the citizens of the United States, I hope that this appropriation will be granted.

The work done in the different National Parks, in my opinion, has been of the greatest value in instilling patriotism and pride of country in American citizens, and I know from the utterances which I have heard from people traveling in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks that pride of ownership and the joy which they derive from these beautiful places is a strong tie binding them to their country — which has been so wisely developed.

Mount Desert Island, on account of its wonderful climate and beautiful scenery is sure to become a place of pilgrimage, and its unique beauty and easy access are bound to result in its development as a veritable playground on land and water for the people. Knowing that one forest fire, permitted to gain headway through a lack of proper protection, would mean the ruin of this spot, I strongly urge that the investment which the Government has wisely accepted in this reservation shall not be allowed to go to waste for want of the relatively small appropriation which it will take to guard and further the opportunities offered there.

Respectfully

(Signed) FELIX W. WARBURG

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUDUBON SOCIETIES
FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND ANIMALS**

New York City

April 6, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SHERLEY:

In behalf of the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals, I am writing to express our most profound hope that your Committee on Appropriations will favorably consider the recommendation of Secretary Lane, that \$50,000 be appropriated for the maintenance and improvement of the Sieur de Monts National Monument on Mount Desert, Maine.

Through coöperation with the Department of Agriculture, and also to some extent by purchase, this Association has been actively engaged the past fifteen years in seeking to establish a chain of refuges or sanctuaries for wild bird life, extending from Maine to Florida and west to the Pacific Coast. Throughout this entire period no area of such importance to wild life has been set aside as a sanctuary in the Eastern States as that contained within the boundaries of the Sieur de Monts National Monument, created by Executive Order through the Monument Act, July 8, 1916.

The sum asked by Secretary Lane for its protection and development is certainly moderate when one considers the importance of the territory, and it is greatly needed.

Trusting that you and your Committee may pass favorably on this matter, I remain, with best wishes,

Yours very truly
(Signed) T. GILBERT PEARSON

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, N.J.

Department of Geology

April 8, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

Permit me to express the earnest hope that your Committee will make a favorable report upon Secretary Lane's recommendation of an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Sieur de Monts National Monument on the island of Mt. Desert. As you are probably aware, the nation owes this park to private foresight and generosity and, from the scientific and educational standpoint, it is very important that the Government, after accepting this gift, should make adequate provision for its proper care and for rendering it acceptable to the many people who would gladly take advantage of it. To preserve intact the very interesting geological and botanical features of the region and to make a safe refuge for animal and bird life were, together with the human one, the principal motives which led the originators of the plan to undertake the work, and the Government, as trustee for the people, should in my opinion see to it that the plan does not miscarry for want of suitable attention. I have always been an ardent supporter of the system of National Parks, which is so creditable to our Government, and I trust that even under the present circumstances of terrible stress the parks may not suffer from neglect. The Sieur de Monts project is worthy of your most worthy consideration.

With repeated expression of my hope for your favorable action, I am,

Very respectfully yours

(Signed)

W. B. SCOTT

Blair Professor of Geology

Law Offices of
GEORGE L. INGRAHAM

14 Wall Street
New York

April 4, 1918.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have for many years made my summer home on the Island of Mt. Desert in the State of Maine, and have taken a great interest in the development of the Island, being quite familiar with the unique position that it holds upon the Atlantic Coast. It is really a promontory of granite extending into the Atlantic ocean, and it is, both geologically and in relation to animal and vegetable life, the most interesting corner of the Atlantic seaboard. These granite mountains extend right into the ocean, and constitute the highest point of land on the immediate coast between Eastport and Florida. Attempts to exploit it for commercial purposes have threatened to destroy its unique character. There are groves of white pine, besides interesting forest tracts of other species, remaining on the island, and the combination of mountains and lakes with these renders it in my opinion a most important spot to be preserved.

Years ago a number of public-spirited persons who habitually resort to the Island, procured, piece by piece, a conveyance of the most essential portions of it to Trustees, in order to preserve their beauty and their freedom to the public. Some two years since this property was conveyed to the Government, which accepted it for a national park. The Secretary of the Interior has applied for an appropriation of \$50,000, for the improvement and protection of this park, and if the object of those who have contributed the property is to be attained, it is necessary that there should be appropriated a sum of money by the Government to preserve the wild life that now exists upon it, and to make improvements.

I conceive it to be of the greatest importance to the inhabitants of the United States that there should be one reservation on its eastern coast for the purpose of preserving the wild life native to it, both animal and vegetable, and this can only be done

by protecting this locality, now nationally owned, from injury and encroachments. Not as one interested in the immediate locality, however, but rather in the wild life of the Atlantic seaboard, I appeal to you to obtain this appropriation.

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours
(Signed) GEORGE L. INGRAHAM

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

NEW YORK, *April* 11, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

Will you permit me to write you in reference to the appropriation which I understand Secretary Lane of the Department of the Interior has recommended to be made for the current year for the protection and improvement of the Sieur de Monts National Monument on Mt. Desert Island.

I have been a resident during the summer on this Island for the past fifteen years; and have visited almost every nook and corner on it. In my travels all over the United States and in foreign countries, I have found no section that Nature has made more attractive than Mt. Desert Island. I really believe that it is one of the finest gifts God has bestowed upon the people of the United States, and it is but right that they should show themselves worthy of this gift by seeing to its proper development and preservation.

It is a source of congratulation that the Government has taken this upon itself by taking over a large part of the Island and making it into a National Park, and it is to be hoped that it will likewise see to the proper maintenance of the newly created Park through moderate expenditures such as may be required to make this Park a real joy and benefit to the people of our country, who are visiting it in ever-increasing numbers, and to give it the protection against forest fires which is greatly needed.

May I, therefore, bespeak your valued interest, which, aside from myself, will be highly appreciated by all who have at heart wholesome recreation for the people of our country.

Respectfully yours

(Signed)

JACOB H. SCHIFF

March 23, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY, Chairman,
Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SIR:

May I ask your favorable consideration as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the item for the appropriation of \$50,000 for the improvement and protection of the Sieur de Monts National Monument, on the coast of Maine?

I fully realize the strain there is on the Treasury during the war. At the same time, may I say that this is a park created through the munificent gifts of citizens for which no appropriation has been asked until this year and now only for its protection and improvement in the public interest.

I have been a summer resident of Mt. Desert since 1870, and have met there travellers from all over the world. All agree that there are few, if any, spots — anywhere — which combine such qualities of mountainous area close to the ocean, of exhilarating sea and mountain air, of unique forestry and fauna due to its position between the cold belt of Canada and the warmer belt of Cape Cod. It is bound to be a spot to which people from all parts of the United States will increasingly turn, indeed, have turned already. The only national park in the East, it will give such an opportunity, moreover, for the commingling of citizens from North, South, East, and West, as is helpful for the unification of the people.

I remain,

Yours very truly
(Signed) WILLIAM LAWRENCE

THOMAS EWING
Attorney at Law

160 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y.
April 1, 1918.

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Committee of the House
Upon Appropriations,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR:

I am very much interested in the plans of the Interior Department for the development of the Sieur de Monts National Monument for which an appropriation is asked from Congress. I have been going to a place bordering it on Frenchman's Bay for many years. No section of the country is better suited to giving opportunity for rest and recreation in the summer to large numbers of people of moderate means than Mt. Desert Island.

It lies within easy boat and motor reach from great business and industrial centers as far south at least as New York, and easy railroad reach from many states. What is needed is to make its points of interest and beauty readily accessible and to fit it to be a place of residence of a simple kind for the multitudes of people who live where they can come to it.

It also seems to me that this is a time when it is peculiarly desirable to develop our home resources for recreation and the upbuilding of the vitality of the people, particularly of the people whose lives are cast along somewhat narrow lines and who need to be assisted to get out of the ruts and obtain the uplift and inspiration of a spot like this.

Respectfully yours

(Signed) THOMAS EWING

357 FOURTH AVENUE, N.Y.
April 23, 1918.

THE HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Appropriations Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SIR:

Secretary Lane, of the Department of the Interior, has asked the Congress to make an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars for the care and development of the Sieur de Monts National Monument. This wonderful part of Mt. Desert Island is really a national park, though called a "monument" because of the law under which it was accepted as a gift to the nation. It includes some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. It combines in wonderful variety a rugged sea-coast, exquisite lakes, peaceful meadows, and towering cliffs. Primeval forests fill its valleys and stretch up the lower slopes of the highest mountains on our Atlantic coast toward their bare, glacier-scarred summits. It is a playground of Nature's making, showing her best work in things animate and inanimate. Its woods and marshes are an ideal refuge for birds and wild game. Almost every plant known to the temperate zone in eastern North America is found growing there.

The Sieur de Monts Monument is within a day's journey of a third of the population of the United States, lying within easy reach by rail or water from every town and city in the East. Already it is visited yearly by more people than go to any other of our national parks, except only the Arkansas Hot Springs and Rocky Mountain Park.

During this past winter poachers have been unhindered by the Government in slaughtering deer and killing the grouse sheltered in the park, and timber has been cut without license. Such destruction must be prevented and the forest guarded against disease and fire. It needs paths, wood roads, and proper entrances, for protection and to make its beauties more accessible.

As head of one of the buying sections of the War Department I realize as many cannot, the huge sums which must now be devoted to the national defense. Part of this defense, however, consists in keeping our people at their highest efficiency. This

public playground of Mt. Desert Island should not be neglected by the Government, which holds it for the people. It should be protected for the present and developed for the future, for those who need — even more in time of war than in time of peace — the tonic of its bracing air and wild scenery.

I trust that you will use your influence to secure for the Sieur de Monts National Monument its full share of whatever appropriation is made for the national parks.

Yours respectfully

(Signed)

LINCOLN CROMWELL

*Chairman, Knit Goods Branch, Supply & Equipment Division, Q.M.C. War
Department*

HON. SWAGAR SHERLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations of the House,
Washington, District of Columbia.

SIR:

The State of Maine is warmly interested in the development of the National Park upon its coast, entitled the Sieur de Monts National Monument.

This park, which has been the gift of citizens to the National Government, occupies the most beautiful tract of land on the Atlantic coast, and has exceptional historic interest. Readily accessible from every eastern section of the Country, unique in landscape character and bordering on the sea, the resort to it and its value to the public as a recreative area could readily be doubled in a few years' time by right development. I sincerely hope that such development may be given it and that the appropriation for the purpose now asked by the Secretary of the Interior after personal investigation may be granted. This is the one eastern representative of the National Park System, a system maintained at the general expense for all the people. It stands already third among the National Park areas of the Country in the number of its visitors and has yet received no Federal aid.

Trusting that your Committee will take favorable action accordingly on Secretary Lane's request, I remain

Yours very truly

(Signed) CARL E. MILLIKEN

Governor

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